प्रणाली को देखकर बने हैं और अगर इसमें शिक्षाविद ही हमें कोई सुझाव देंगे कि इस बारे में ऐसे नहीं, ऐसे किया जाना चाहिए तो शिक्षा की व्यवस्था को और बच्चों की उन्नति को देखते हुए हम जरूर विचार करेंगे। मगर यह मैं सम्माननीय सदस्य को और सदन को बताना चाहता हूं कि यह नियम कोई सरकार की विम्ज़ की वजह से नहीं बने है या हमें कोई इस पर ज़िद नहीं है कि ये नियम हमने बना दिए हैं, बल्कि शिक्षाविदों ने जो राय दी है, जो शिक्षा को चलाते हैं, संस्थाओं को चलाते हैं, उनकी सोची-समझी हुई राय है, उसके आधार पर इसको बनाया है। ताहम अगर जितनी कठिनाइयां आयेंगी, जैसा मैंने बताया और उसके बारे में हमें आवेदन प्राप्त होंगे, तो रिव्यू कमेटी जरूरी विचार करेगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Question No. 246, Shri Gufran Azam, not here.

*246 [*The Questioner (Shri Gufran Azam) was absent. For answer* vide *Col....*infra].

Tobacco addiction among Children

*247. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 40 lakh children below 15 years of age are addicted to tobacco;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tobacco handling by women affects pregnancy; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to discourage tobacco use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Sample Survey Organisation Report estimates that, 46.5 lakh Children below the age of 15 years are addicted to Tobacco.

An Occupational Health Study, conducted by National Institute of Occupational Health, involving 178 Women engaged in Beedi making, reported about prevalence of backache, headache, giddiness, etc. among these Women Workers. 19% of these women had 1—4 miscarriages at 3—5 months of pregnancy. However, the study is not considered to be conclusive in its findings. A WHO Publication, "Women and Health" 1992, mentions that smoking and use of smokeless Tobacco by Women is associated with increased risk of infertility, miscarriage, low birth weight of child, higher still birth rates, etc.

The Government has intensified its efforts to discourage people from Tobacco consumption. Under the Administrative instructions, tobacco smoking is prohibited in Hospitals Dispensaries and other Health Care Establishments, Educational Institutions, conference rooms, demestic airflights, air conditioned chair cars and air conditioned sleeper coaches in trains, sub-trains and air conditioned buses under the control of Government of India. Smoking has also been prohibited in public places and public conveyances in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. In addition, the following measures have been taken to discourage consumption of Tobacco:—

(i) As per the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, it is mandatory to display health warning on all cartons/packets of cigarettes.

(ii) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, a warning 'Chewing of tobacco is injurious to health' is mandatory on chewing tobacco products.

(iii) Direct advertisements relating to tobacco or tobacco related products are prohibited on Doorsharshan, and All India Radio.

(iv) The Government has advised the State Governments to discourage the consumption of products containing chewing tobacco, including Gutka. They have also been advised to ensure that tobacco products are not sold around educational institutions such as schools, colleges.

(v) Health Education.

A proposal is under consideration, to bring forward a comprehensive legislation which is expected to reduce the use of tobacco in the country. The Ministry is examining what other steps can be taken to stop/discourage the use of chewing Tobacco and Gutka.

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Sir, I understand from the hon. Minister's answer that we are respecting our womanfolk. Those who are taking tobacco are suffering from so many diseases including the risk of infertility, miscarriage, low birth weight of the child, high rate of still-birth, etc. Under the circumstances, I want to know from the Minister whether his Ministry is going to come forward with an awareness programme against tobacco consumption by pregnant women, given by Primary Health Centres in rural areas.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, with regard to creating awareness against smoking, the Government has already constituted a committee in the year 1995, that is called an Expert Committee under Prof. Khabra. It has discussed this issue. Again, in 1996 it was expanded with some other experts and scientists. The report of the Committee is due anytime this month. I share the concern of the hon. Member particularly with regard to creating awareness among women because it involves the risk of infertility as well as whatever he has already said. It is affecting the motherhood itself. Therefore, as the hon. Member desires, at the Primary Health Centres, this has to be taken up. But, these Primary Health Centres are managed, administered and maintained by the respective State Governments and we will take up this matter with the State Governments to create an awareness among women.

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: My second supplementary is with regard to children. The Minister has given the answer elaborately that the Government has taken steps to discourage smoking at Government offices and public places. The Government of Delhi has passed an order prohibiting smoking in Delhi. We are very happy to know that the Government of India has increased the prices of *beedi* and cigarette. Sir, the children are supposed to develop and build the nation in future. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any law will be made prohibiting children below the age of 15 years from smoking.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, as our hon. Member has said, the Government of Delhi made a law prohibiting smoking in public places in 1996. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also issued a notification to this effect. Goa has already initiated action in this regard. With regard to the question of prohibiting children throughout the country from smoking, I would say that our experts are already engaged in this and we are expecting their recommendations any time. After the recommendations of the committee, we will invite suggestions from our hon. Members also to work out a methodology that would prohibit children from smoking.

डा० (श्रीमती) उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल: सर, मैं आप के माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि टुबैको का यूज अकेले सिगरेट में ही नहीं होता है, टुबैको च्यूइंग में भी यूज होती है और इस से मुंह का केंसर होता है, यह फैक्ट है और छोटे बच्चे इसे खेते हैं तो ज्यादा नुकसान होता है। क्या 18 साल से नीचे के बच्चे को टुबैको खरीदना और बेचना गुनाह हो, ऐसा कोई कानून सरकार बनाएगी और नया कानून लाने तक कोई ऑर्डिनेंस इस संबंध में लाएगी क्योंकि कई बातों में सरकार ऑर्डिनेंस लागू कर रही है। वह बच्चों की हैल्थ के बारे में चिंतित हैं, ऐसा हम मानते हैं तो इस बारे में ऑर्डिनेंस कब लाएगी और कब तक कानून बनाएगी?

दूसरे टुबैको सूंघने का महिलाओं में ज्यादा रिवाज होता है जिस कारण इस से उन को भी नुकसान होता है। आप इस बारे में कुछ कानूनी जागृति के प्रोग्राम चलाने जरूरी हैं। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि सरकार जागरूक हुई है, ऐसा मंत्री जी ने बयान किया है। तो लोगों में टुबैको का यूज न हो, इस संबंध में जागृति के लिए वह क्या प्रोग्राम चलाएगी, यह मैं आप के माध्यम से पूछना चाहती हूं?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned that passive and environmental smokers are also getting affected day by day. A proposal is under the consideration of the Government to bring forward a comprehensive legislation which is expected to reduce the use of tobacco in the country. Sir, already a statutory warning is printed on the cigarette packets and cartons. The Government of India is considering to bring forward a comprehensive legislation with regard to these tobacco products also. The Ministry is examining the steps which can discourage the use ot chewing tobacco particularly by the children.

श्री शत्रुघ्न सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, विश्व में जितने ओरल केन्सर होते हैं उनका वन थर्ड हिन्दुस्तान में होता है और हिन्दुस्तान में जितने ओरल केन्सर होते है उनमें 90 प्रतिशत टोबेको च्युइंग की वजह से होता है, खासकर गुटका की वजह से होता है। तो मैं आपके जरिए माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आपका कोई ऐसा इरादा है इस सर्वनाशी गुटका को बैन करने का? क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह भी पता है कि सन 2020 तक दुनिया में जितनी डैथ होंगी, मौत होगी, चाहे वह कार एक्सीडेंट की वजह से हो चाहे हृदय रोग से हों, चाहे मस्तिष्क रोग से हों, उनसे ज्यादा मौतें होगी सिर्फ तम्बाकू सेवन और सिगरेट के पीने की वजह से? तो क्या इस पर ऐक लगाने का कोई इरादा है आपका, मंत्री महोदय?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: I really appreciate the concern of the hon. Member regarding banning of gutkha. Banning of gutkha involves three or four Ministries i.e., the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Commerce, etc. It also involves tobacco growers, manufacturers, producers, users, exporters, etc. So far as Health Ministry is concerned, we are studying this and in course of time, we will come out with a comprehensive Bill either to ban gutkha or to stop its use.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

ORAL ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Agitation by employees of IGNCA

*242. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated 23rd May, 1998, regarding arbitrary termination of an employees of IGNCA.

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether procedural enquiry as required under CCS Rules was held before terminating the services of the said employee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government would review the powers of the present Academi Director of IGNCA regarding appointment and termination of services of employees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Following the termination of services of an office-bearer of the employee's union of IGNCA on 22.5.1998, a large number of IGNCA employees were on strike, demanding his reinstatement as well as redressal of other grievances.

Government asked Member Secretary IGNCA on 8.6.1998 to redress the grievances of the employees amicably. The strike has been withdrawn following reinstatement of the employee in service of IGNCA with effect from 10.6.1998.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Discharge of Pollutants by Old Commercial Vehicles

*246. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the commercial vehicles having completed more than 15 years life are mostly discharging pollutants in the atmosphere;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has failed to check the discharge of pollutants by those outdated commercial vehicles; and